

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT-ELECT PARK GEUN-HYE ON HER INAUGURATION AS THE FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2013*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, President-elect Park Geun-hye will be inaugurated as the eleventh President of the Republic of Korea on Monday, February 25, 2013. Madam Park will then become the first freely elected woman leader among the nations of Northeast Asia and the first woman President of the Republic of Korea.

Madam Park has shattered the glass ceiling for Korean women by attaining the highest elected office in the land, achieving this remarkable feat before the United States has elected a woman to lead our Nation.

In the traditional Land of the Morning Calm where the slogan "men first, women behind" was the watchword only a generation ago, Park Geun-hye's election is historic. President-elect Park will serve as a role model for women—young and old—not only in Asia but around the world as they seek to achieve their full potential unfettered by the gender limitations of the past.

Madam Park also raises the possibility of a new beginning in the complex and often hostile relationship that has evolved between the two Koreas since the tragic division of the Korean peninsula at the end of the Second World War. A daughter of a mother slain by a North Korean agent in 1974, Madam Park chose to put this painful family tragedy aside and travel to North Korea in 2002 and meet the very man, Kim Jong-il, who was likely responsible for the murder of her mother. She did this for the good of her country, for those numerous divided Korean families who have not seen nor heard from their loved ones in sixty years, and for a people with a common culture and heritage suddenly torn asunder by Cold War politics.

The Korean people have an old saying that "when whales fight, shrimp get broken" recognizing the victimization of a small but proud nation surrounded by colossal and often hostile neighbors. The healing process after sixty years of this externally imposed division symbolized by the stark frontier of the DMZ will not be easy. But, as was once said in reference to the unfreezing of Sino-American relations, that "only Nixon could go to China," so it may one day be said that "only Park Geun-hye, the daughter of an anti-communist general and a martyred mother, could reconcile the two Koreas."

This coming summer, on July 27th, we will commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the signing of an Armistice which silenced the guns but brought no permanent peace on the Korean peninsula. Our aging Korean War era veterans, who include four Members of the U.S. House of Representatives including the Honorable CHARLES RANGEL, the Honorable JOHN CONYERS JR., the Honorable HOWARD COBLE, and the Honorable SAM JOHNSON, often speak of our steadfast friendship with the people of South Korea as being one which was forged in the crucible of war.

The Korean War Memorial, located not far from this House, serves to remind us all of the

brave men and women of our country "who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met." The election of Park Geun-hye symbolizes the achievement of those democratic values for which these veterans fought and died.

I am also certain that America's almost two million strong Korean-American community who have contributed so much to their adopted country are justifiably proud of the democratic and economic miracle of their ancestral homeland. The alliance between their old and new countries, strengthened by the recent adoption of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, will only be further invigorated under Madam Park's presidency.

For historical purposes, I submit this statement to be made part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to the service, often at great personal sacrifice, that President-elect Park Geun-hye has rendered for and on behalf of the people of the Republic of Korea. I join my colleagues in looking forward to welcoming Madam Park when she makes her first official visit to Washington, DC later this year.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE STATES' MEDICAL MARIJUANA PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2013*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, along with a bipartisan group of cosponsors, I am introducing the States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act, legislation that will allow medical marijuana patients and businesses—who are complying with state law—the ability to access and distribute marijuana free from federal interference.

Eighteen states and the District of Columbia have passed laws allowing for the use of medical marijuana for people suffering from conditions such as cancer and severe nausea. As a result there are now hundreds of thousands of medical marijuana patients nationwide. Despite these laws, at the federal level marijuana is currently listed as a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act, meaning that it is considered a substance with a "high potential for abuse," with "no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States." This means that the 19 jurisdictions that permit medical marijuana are operating in a patchwork of inconsistent local and federal laws.

These inconsistencies create significant challenges for both patients and the businesses working to provide access to medical marijuana. Because of federal tax and banking laws, marijuana businesses—despite operating in compliance with state or local law—are not allowed to deduct their legitimate business expenses and are often unable to make deposits or maintain bank accounts. Simultaneously, the federal government has continued to enforce federal law, and many medical marijuana facilities across the country have been raided by the Drug Enforcement Administration or otherwise targeted by the Department of Justice.

The federal government maintains a monopoly on access to marijuana for research, currently run by the National Institute on Drug

Abuse (NIDA). The mission of this Institute is to "lead the Nation in bringing the power of science to bear on drug abuse and addiction," and many researchers have found it difficult to obtain marijuana for research into the potential therapeutic or medicinal effects of marijuana.

The States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act would provide for the rescheduling of marijuana under the Controlled Substance Act to a listing other than Schedule I or II, which would mean the federal government recognizes an accepted medical use. It would also ensure that neither the Controlled Substances Act nor the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act would restrict individuals, doctors or businesses from consuming, recommending, producing, distributing or otherwise operating in marijuana in compliance with state or local laws. Finally, it would require that access to marijuana for research into its potential medicinal and therapeutic uses be overseen by an entity in the government not focused on researching the addictive properties of substances.

Nineteen jurisdictions have passed laws recognizing the importance of providing access to medical marijuana for the hundreds of thousands of patients who rely on it. It is time for the federal government to respect these decisions, and stop inhibiting safe access.

### HONORING JACE C. PINE

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jace C. Pine. Jace is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jace has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jace has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jace has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jace C. Pine for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

### HONORING WILLIAM ASHFORD

### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2013*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Mr. William Ashford, who is interning in my office with the Uni-Capitol Washington Program. The Uni-Capitol Washington Program (UCWIP) has paired some of the brightest Australian students with various congressional offices for more than a decade and I am happy to be a host again this year.

Will comes from the University of Wollongong and is studying engineering and